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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7230

BILL NUMBER: SB 411

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 19, 2004

BILL AMENDED: Feb 20, 2004

SUBJECT: Ballot Form.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lawson C

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Mahern

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill establishes a ballot form that lists candidates by office for electronic voting systems. The bill provides that for optical scan ballots, candidates must be grouped by party unless the county election board adopts a resolution by a unanimous vote of all board members to arrange the ballot by office. The bill provides that references to punch card ballots expire December 31, 2005, because the use of punch card ballots is prohibited after that date. The bill removes references to ballot card and electronic voting systems in provisions that apply only to paper ballots. The bill requires that certain features of an electronic voting system concerning the verification or correction of a voter's ballot apply after December 31, 2005.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary:* The impact to local expenditures, is unknown and would depend on the action taken by the county, the contract with the voting system vendor, the type of voting system being used, and the number of ballots (if optical scan system is used) needed to conduct an election.

Under current law, ballots for all voting methods: paper ballot, punch card, lever machine, optical scan, and direct recording electronic are required to be listed by party. Under the bill, voting methods other than the paper ballot, optical scan, and lever machine would be allowed to arrange general election ballots by office, in the order specified under the guidelines of IC 3-11-2 (General Election Ballot Forms). Optical scan

counties and the last lever machine county would have the option to adopt an ordinance to place the ballot by office. If an ordinance were not adopted, the county would have to place its ballot by party. Unless an ordinance, allowed under the bill, were to be adopted by optical scan counties, these counties could face additional expenditure to have their systems reprogrammed and the ballot card reformatted in order to list the candidates of an election by party. Optical scan counties could experience difficulty in organizing their ballot by party, if there are more than five or six presidential candidates in an election, which could increase the expense of to format and print the ballots.

Counties with Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) systems may experience some minimal expenditure to update some ballot forms (printing) to conform with the bill. Counties that currently do not employ an optical scan or direct recording electronic voting system would have to conform to the provisions of the bill upon adoption of one of these voting methods.

Background: As of January 2004, the following numbers of counties have the following voting systems:

Type of Voting System	Number of Counties Using the Voting System
Direct Recording Electronic	38
Optical Scan	31
Punch Card	22
Lever	1

Note: As of January 2004, some counties that have recently contracted to purchase new voting systems have not yet used the new systems in an election.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: Indiana Election Division.

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